

CALIFORNIA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION
MARCH COMMISSION MEETING
LOS ANGELES, CA
MARCH 16, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

- Presentations were made on meeting the needs of California's diverse population by a panel of eight experts on diversity, from the fields of health, early care and education, research, and urban planning. Significant gaps in services were identified and recommendations were made for closing them. California's changing demographics support the need to focus on diversity: currently, 64 percent of children age one to four in California are non-Caucasian.
- The Commission members approved the establishment of a formal Advisory Committee on Diversity. Nominees to serve on the Advisory Committee will be made by Commission members, and appointments will be made in June. The goals of the Advisory Committee are to ensure Commission programs, activities, and policies support California's diverse population.
- The Los Angeles County Children and Families Commission reported on the status of their current strategic planning and implementation. Five outcome areas were discussed, ranging from good health to school readiness. Los Angeles is one of nine counties that has completed its Strategic Plan.
- Commission members approved State Commission sponsorship of the Office of the Attorney General's "Safe from the Start" conference on May 17 and subsequent regional conferences. This series of conferences is designed to explore the effects of exposure to violence on young children and promising practices for local prevention efforts. Local commissions will be invited/encouraged to participate in the regional conferences. The Commission further adopted a "sponsorship" policy of budgeting funds for sponsorship of statewide conferences that share the goals of the Commission. The State Commission will be developing an application packet for requestors.
- Commission members approved, with minor editorial changes, the final "Results" document. As required by statute, this document defines the results to be achieved by the State Commission's adopted "Guidelines." The "Results" reflect broad input from stakeholder groups, County Commissions, and State Commission members.
- Commission members approved a process for reviewing county Strategic Plans. Commission staff will be sharing the proposal with local commissions for comments and recommendations.
- The Chairman reported that \$599,662,081 has been paid to counties to date.